

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

May 2026

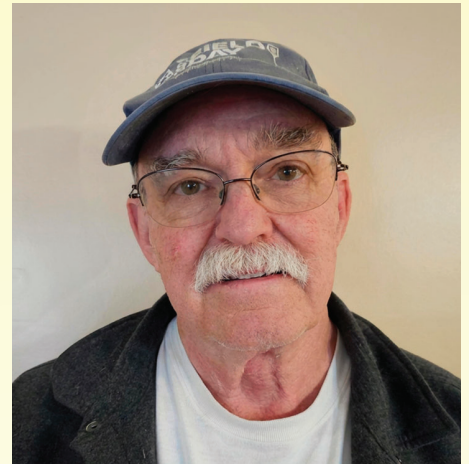
Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, May 19, 2026

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

I was not at the last OVH meeting on April 21st because it was a special election day and as an assistant chief election officer at Buckhall UMC voting location, I had to be at that voting place all day. It was a very busy day there to make sure the special election was conducted "properly," but interestingly the time, the Virginia Supreme Court last week effectively voided all results by declaring the statewide special election had been forced improperly by the current incumbents in power in Richmond in violation of the Virginia Constitution. Many had predicted that would happen, but I was still glad I had an opportunity to participate in the event. No more here about politics.

I am very pleased that Jason / K4APR was able to present on his Radio Packet Network with audio/visual assistance from Byron / AK4XR (see image to the right), but I am sorry I missed it due to the special election. Hopefully, we will soon have some slides posted on the OVH web site from this.

At the upcoming regular OVH meeting on May 19th at 7:30 PM, Scott / KE4WMF will be the program presenter. Scott is a radio contester competitor in the same champion class as our own Gil / KM4OZH. Scott (like Gil) has a car with an impressive Antenna Farm mounted on it. Scott's presentation will include information about what is



Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 4293
Manassas, Virginia 20108-0728

OFFICERS

President:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	789-6449
Vice Pres:	Gil Thompson	KM4OZH	369-0431
Secretary:	Lynn Timmons	KX4HR	913-205-1742
Treasurer:	Don Meyerhoff	WA2SWX / HC4DA	703-597-3211

DIRECTORS

George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Bob Zaepfel	K4HJF	282-2451
Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3566

WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET COORDINATOR

JOHN	KG4NXT	257-3566
Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time		

HAMFEST 2026 - CHAIR

Theresa	kg4tvm@hotmail.com	KG4TVM	703-257-3566
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FIELD DAY 2026 - CHAIR

John	KG4NXT	703-789-6449
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CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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VE COORDINATOR

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Open - volunteer needed!

ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
See http://pwcares.org	email: kg4giy@arrl.net	

FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Don	WA2SWX	597-3211

GENERATORS

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

WARRIOR BIKE RIDE - CHAIRMAN

Andy	andy@gamponia.com	KJ4MTP	785-4651
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WEB COMMITTEE — W4OVH.NET + Twitter & Facebook

Kevin	W4RKU	540-445-5183
John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KN4DD	622-2638
Lynn	KX4HR	913-205-1742
Web Committee "help request" email: webmaster@w4ovh.net		

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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MANASSAS CHRISTMAS PARADE - OVH COORDINATOR

George	K4GVT	791-5956
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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CHRISTMAS / YEAR END PARTY - CHAIRPERSON

Theresa.	KG4TVM	257-3566
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PROGRAMS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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QUARTERMASTER

Open - volunteer needed!

THURSDAY NIGHT NET / REPEATER CONTROLLERS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KE2N	753-8587
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794
Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431
Jeff	WB6UIE	791-5916
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Cat	KM4PBD	571-213-2179

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP 2022

Ken	KN4DD	622-2638
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Ken	KE2N	753-8587
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868
Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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All telephone numbers listed above for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted. This is the official monthly publication of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a §501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio, education related especially to radio activities, electronics, computers, science and STEM subjects, and public service activities. Copyright © 2026 by the Ole Virginia Hams which holds its regular monthly meetings at 7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend without obligation. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeaters each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>. Articles in this newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the OVH ARC and other source(s) noted. Proposed materials for publication, classified ads, notes about specific errors, complaints or the like are solicited. Forward such items to the Newsletter Editor: paul@w4zb.com. Approx. Circ.: 170. Last Rev: 20260307

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in and on his car and how that all evolved. See the image to the right.

The Virginia QSO party has posted (not quite final) scores and Gil currently has 74420 points which currently puts him at the top of the Rover category and in line for another Plaque.

Since our April meeting, the OVH has had a successful VE session and a joint planning meeting for upcoming Manassas Hamfest on June 20, 2026 and ARRL/OVH Field Day on June 27-28, 2026. June, our busiest month each year, is just around the corner.

We are having Hamfest at Colgan High School for the first time and we still need more volunteers. To volunteer, call Theresa at 703 257 3566 or email her at kg4tvm@hotmail.com. You can also sign up on google docs at:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bycC7URDxQh4d12dWC_Q163ktOs0YEG3vhWF5YR8ZT4/edit?usp=sharing

For Field Day, we need someone who can cook food; we also need night (overnight) operators. We are expecting to have another exciting hydrogen balloon launch by Bruce / KN4GDX event.

73 John KG4NXT



Sunshine Corner



Happy Birthday wishes to all of the following OVH club members with birthdays in May: John / KM4VCJ,

David / KG4GIY, Bill / WA4FIC, Rob / KR4EEV, Dick / KM4UXE, Susan / K3SSP, Bruce / KN4GDX, Don / WA2SWX/HC4DA, Bob / KQ4PSE, Jim / WI4EE, John / KG4NXT, Kenneth / KI4EOH and Lynn / KX4HR.



John / KG4NXT and I are looking forward to going to Hamvention in Ohio in the next few days. There are several OVH members also going, so I hope we can all meet up at the event. This will be our first time going so I'm sure we will have some stories when we get back!

Virginia QSO Party has prelim results out and Gil KM4OZH is looking pretty good for a plaque, we will see if anyone else comes away with an award!

Hamfest 2026 – June 20th is just over a month away! We could use about five more people to help on the day of the event. Also need the entire OVH to spread the word to other hams and clubs so we have a good turnout. Any questions please call Theresa at 703-257-3566.

Field Day 2026 – Final planning meeting was held at the end of April. Antenna set up will happen the Friday before Field Day. We do need some people to operate at night and

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overnight. Please contact John at kg4nxt@arrl.net or at 703-789-6449 with any questions.

Please make sure the club has your correct call sign and mailing address in the member's only section at <https://w4ovh.net>

Please send me your news, good, not so good and ham related info! kg4tvm@hotmail.com

Thursday night net at 8 pm is a great way to keep up with current events and hear what everyone is up to with their radios!

73 Theresa / KG4TVM kg4tvm@hotmail.com Tel: 703-257-3566



Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on April 21, 2026:

Vice President, Gil / KM4OZH, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on April 21, 2026. The club meeting was held in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. All present stated their names and callsigns.

The program was excellent with a presentation by Jason Rausch / K4APR. Jason brought three identical setups to demonstrate the Terrestrial Amateur Radio Packet Network (TARPN) with 3 nodes. TARPN is essentially an RF packet node-based network and there are currently 38 participants in the experiment. The typical signal change rate is between 1200-9600 baud. To learn more about Virginia TARPN go to <https://www.vatarpn.net>.

The minutes of the March 17, 2026 meeting were approved.

Membership business – Luther /WA3FMO reported one new read-in: Nick Cantos, no license yet. He is interested in voice communications both through hand held and non-hand devices, and CW. Other interests: video games, sports, he's also a Dodgers, Lakers, and Rams fan. Also, Nascar and he's also into gadgets. Vote for him at the next meeting.

Repeater Report – Ken / KE2N noted the repeater is working but some repairs are needed.

Website Report – The website is up and running and plug-ins are up to date.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ reported on the VE session that was held on April 18, 2026. One 12-year-old took the technician exam and passed easily. The Exam Tools system is working well and saves a lot of time processing the exam sessions.

Theresa / KG4TVM, reported on the Manassas Hamfest which will be held at Colgan Sr. High School on June 20, 2026 this year. Field Day will be held on June 27-28, 2026 at the Nokesville Community Park at 12560 Aden Rd, Nokesville, Virginia. Theresa also advised that more volunteers are needed for Hamfest and Field Day.

Old Business: None. New Business:None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

May 14, 2026, Thursday, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, Contest University at Dayton, Ohio. This is not strictly a Hamfest but is a learning event very closely related (in time and place) to the upcoming Dayton Hamvention, just below. The one very full day program, different every year, that is very highly recommended for those interested in ham radio contest activities, and in constructing very high performance ham radio stations. Full info at ContestUniversity.com

May 15 - 17, 2026 (Friday through Sunday, the Dayton Hamvention in Xenia, Ohio. This annual hamfest continues to be one of the largest in the world, and attracts ham visitors from all over the USA, and Canada, and most of the rest of the world. If you are “into” ham radio, you should plan to attend this for at least a single full day at least once. Some hams from this area have gone to the Dayton Hamvention more than a dozen times. More info at hamvention.org

OVH RELATED EVENTS

June 20, 2026 (Saturday). The Manassas Hamfest 2026 is now scheduled. Save the date and plan to volunteer to assist the OVH in making this a successful Hamfest. A lot more info about this will be provided for OVH members on the OVH members only email reflector and for everyone on W4OVH.NET over the next several months.

June 27 - 28, 2026 - the ARRL / OVH Field Day. The OVH venue this year will again be at the pavilion at the local Nokesville Community Park. This is also an OVH family event, and all family members or other individuals interested or potentially interested in ham radio are invited to attend. There will be a pot luck dinner on Saturday. Portable / temporary ham radio stations will be set up and operated off of generator power. The operations will be in various modes on the HF bands (SSB - voice, CW - morse code, and digital modes) and FM on the VHF / UHF bands. The objective of the radio operation is to make as many two way contacts with other Field Day stations in the USA and Canada as possible during the event, and typically, hundred of contacts are will be made. There are also usually some other events such as technical lectures, fox (hidden radio transmitter) hunts and balloon launches. Save the date! Watch here for more info as the date gets closer.

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS

See, <https://www.arrl.org/contests> for the ARRL maintained Contesting web page; see also, NG3K.com and <https://contestcalendar.com> by WA7BNM for more radio contesting info!

PUBLIC EVENTS / PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar on the OVH's web site at W4OVH.NET for information about upcoming OVH related events. Also, check the online Calendar maintained by David / KG4GIY at <http://pwcares.org> for the latest PWC ARES updates. Complete direct contact information for David / KG4GIY also appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

OVH VE Session on April 18, 2026

The OVH conducted its second VE exam session using the new ExamTools online system on April 18, 2026. Everything went smoothly and we added two new ham radio operators to our hobby! We also had our first opportunity to offer an exam to a 12-year-old and submit an “ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program” application. This ARRL program reimburses the \$35 FCC application fee, encouraging those under 18 years of age to become newly licensed ham radio operators.

Four applicants were present at that VE exam session. Two new Technician Class licenses were earned and two hams qualified for an upgrade to General Class.

Holding VE sessions in-person provides valuable face-to-face engagement with prospective OVH members, allowing them to learn more about the club and its activities. All the applicants were interested in finding out more about the OVH’s upcoming Field Day and Hamfest. We also had an opportunity to talk with a previous ham from India (former callsign VU2ADC) who was interested in getting back into ham radio and getting licensed here in the USA.

Thanks to Byron / AK4XR, John / KG4NXT, Bruce / KN4GDX and Lynn / KX4HR for serving as Volunteer Examiners. This was also Lynn’s first VE session!

The next VE session will be held at our Hamfest on June 20, 2026. Since OVH club members will be busy running the event, the Arlington Amateur Radio Club will support the VE session.

73 Mark Braunstein WA4KFZ

Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

1. The web site: <https://swrmagazine.org> based in Puerto Rico is now, among other things, publishing a slick, colorful, monthly, free, online flip page ham radio magazine with separate monthly versions in English and Spanish. The current web page also has the May 2026 version in Italian and a prior month (April) version in Japanese readily available online. The editorial content and writing is well done. Worth looking at just for the English version.

2. Some of you will remember that the now defunct, former major US ham magazine and book publisher, CQ Magazine, also published a Spanish language ham magazine with substantial portions of its content drawn from CQ Magazine for many years. I learned that when I purchased a copy in a hotel lobby store in Mexico City in the early 1980’s. It was well put together with content of interest to me so I subscribed to and read it regularly for several years to improve my (reading in) Spanish.

3. Much earlier, when I was a new General class ham seeking new DX contacts on CW, a local ham friend suggested that if I would end my CW calls to stations in Spanish speaking countries with “por favor” (please), that that would increase my callbacks - that had worked for him. I tried it and it did work, but often resulted in a flurry of Spanish text which I could not understand quickly enough for a CW QSO in Spanish. Fortunately, English was and is the international language of ham radio.

4. Another long ago incident reflecting my own cultural / language ignorance and involving ham radio: when I was in early high school, my mother regularly asked me what new DX countries I had contacted. One day I advised I had just had CW contact with a ham in Venezuela named Jesus; that was the first time I had encountered anyone with that name which I thought had been retired or withdrawn from use in biblical times. My mother’s father had been a Methodist Minister, and she was concerned that I had been duped via ham radio by someone, otherwise unknown, claiming to be Jesus. Not until I was able to borrow a Foreign Callbook from a local ham which confirmed the name of YV station’s operator did her concerns subside. I also later got a YV QSL card from that Jesus too.



INDOOR HAMFEST & TAILGATE EVENT

Saturday, June 20th, 2026

[Charles J. Colgan Sr. High School](#)

13833 Dumfries Rd, Manassas VA 20112

**Colgan is a state-of-the-art High School in Prince William County
that was opened in 2016, we will be using doors #33 and #34
Please watch for signage at the school**

GENERAL ADMISSION
DOORS OPEN AT 8 AM
\$10.00 PER PERSON
OVER 14

INSIDE VENDORS
DOORS OPEN AT 7 AM
\$25 PER TABLE
INCLUDES 1 SIX FOOT
ROUND TABLE, 1 CHAIR & 1
ADMISSION TICKET
ADDITIONAL TABLES \$20
PER TABLE

TAILGATE
SET UP AT 7 AM
\$15 PER PARKING SPACE
DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY
ADMISSION TICKETS

VA QSO
PARTY AWARDS

Watch for updated
information and vendor
list at www.w4ovh.net

ARRL TABLE

DOORS CLOSE
AT 12:30 PM



**OLE VIRGINIA HAMS
AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB**

**invites the public to
attend the 2026
Field Day Event**

**24 Hour Event
starts 2 pm June 27th
thru 2 pm June 28th**

**Nokesville Park
12560 Aden Road
Nokesville VA
At the big pavilion
past the baseball
fields**

Rain or Shine!

**More Info:
www.w4ovh.net**

**Balloon Launch on
Saturday Afternoon**

**Saturday evening
Pot Luck Dinner at 5
pm - bring a dish to
share**

This is a family event

All are welcome!